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SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : For all the other samba varieties, the period for ripening is six months. Even for ayan samba it is six months. I do not think it is more than six months. The Hon. Minister said that ayan samba was not available in Tiruchi.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I did not say so. I said that if the hon. Member did not know it, it would be known in other districts.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Sir, for nearly 20 to 30 years I have experience in paddy and rice. I have never come across anything like the so-called ayan samba. It is only after the control and the introduction of the recent order, this ayan samba has come into vogue. Several varieties of paddy and rice have been passed and prices have been fixed for each variety. The customers are forced to pay a very high price for rice. Are the Government aware of this?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I have not received any complaint. But if the hon. Member writes to me that in this particular variety there is going to be some misuse, I will look into it.

SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : As regards the first point, the Government say that they have fixed the price and that the Collectors have been authorised to reduce the price for transport from villages to assembly points. But the real fact is that Collectors are insisting not only on payment of the assembly point price but the maximum price in the village itself. The procuring agents are compelled to pay the maximum price. That is the real fact. In such cases, even granting that at the assembly point an allowance is given at 50 Paise, is it enough? Even in the village itself the charge is nearly 50 Paise per bag of paddy. In such cases the allowance given is not enough. Will the Government consider the matter and fix the actual expenditure involved ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : The complaint I have received is that the allowance fixed is too high, and that it should be reduced. Another complaint which I am constantly getting is that the procuring agents, when they go to a village, find offers at much lower than the floor price or the support price in which case Government have to step in to guarantee the mimimum price to the agriculturists.

Siruvani drinking water-supply scheme.

* 176. *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN (on behalf of DR. T. V. Sivanandam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the result of negotiations between this State and Kerala State with reference to the Siruvani drinking water-supply scheme to Coimbatore ;

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(b) whether the construction of a reservoir at Siruvani at Coimbatore will be started soon ; and

(c) if so, where the reservoir will be located ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) to (c) Negotiations are in progress with the Government of Kerala.

Buckingham Canal, Cooum river, etc.

* 177. Q.—SRI N. R. THIAGARAJAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) the department which exercises control over the Buckingham Canal, the Cooum river and the Adyar river in the City of Madras ; and

(b) whether the suggestions made by Sri K. Kamaraj, the former Chief Minister with regard to the Buckingham Canal are under the consideration of the Government ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) The Irrigation Branch of the Public Works Department.

(b) Yes.

Sothuparai and Kuppamparai dams

* 178. Q.—SRI N. R. THIAGARAJAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct Sothuparai dam and Kuppamparai dam west of Periakulam, Madurai district;

(b) the estimated cost of each dam ;

(c) the total ayacut area likely to be irrigated ; and

(d) the revenue villages which will be benefitted by new irrigation facilities ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) The proposal is under investigation and in a preliminary stage.

(b) to (d) These do not arise just at present.

Missing of a patient in Government Hospital, Coimbatore

* 179. Q.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN (on behalf of SRI. N. V. Natarajan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a woman patient was found missing from the maternity ward of the Government Hospital, Coimbatore ; and

(b) the reasons therefor ?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM : (a) Yes.

(b) The patient absconded on the morning of 15th June 1965. Later, it was found that she reached her home. The patient was a little maniacal while at the hospital.